VILLAGE IDIOT
PRESENTS

SORA GA HAIIRO DAKARA

VOL 2

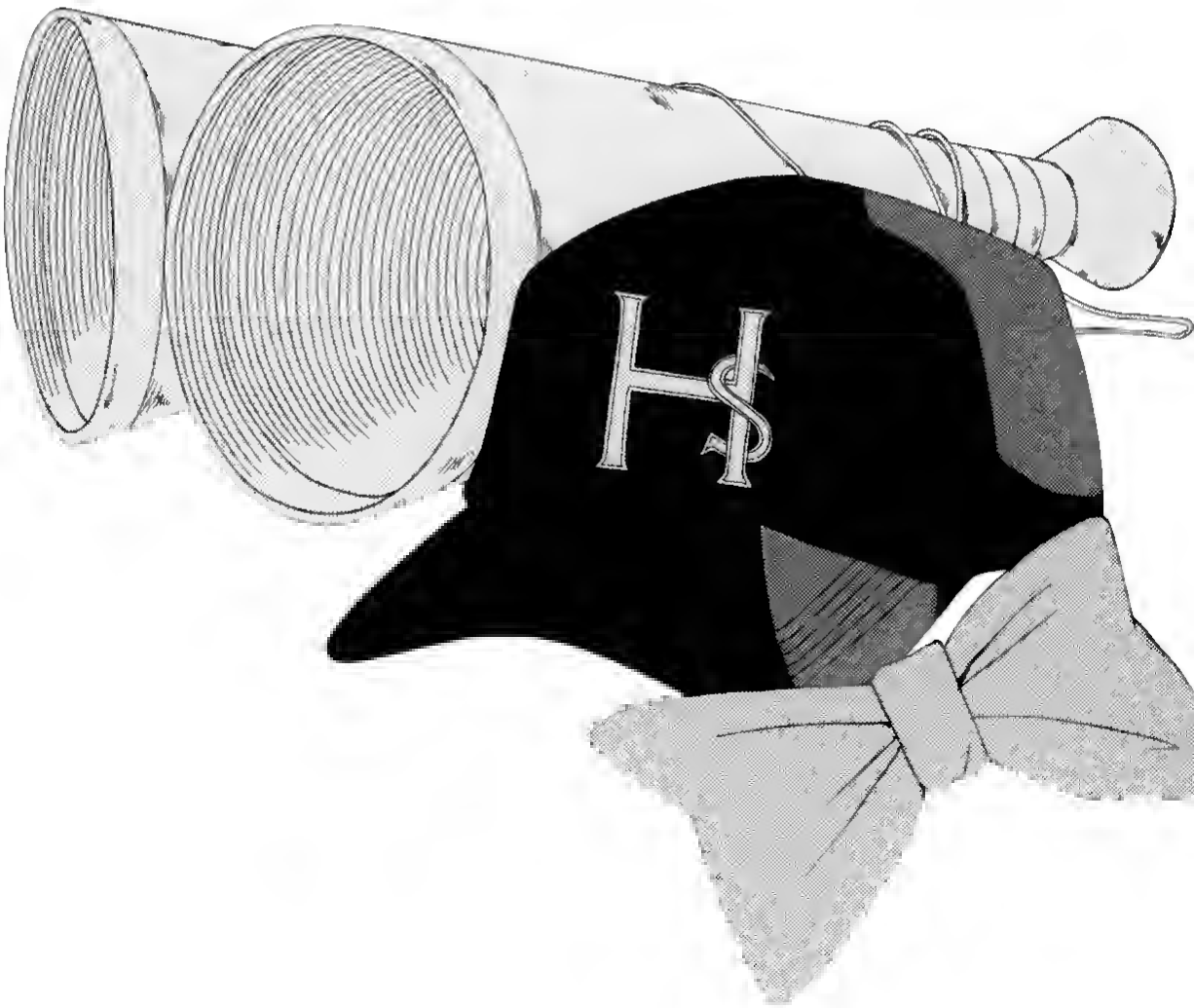
CH 18

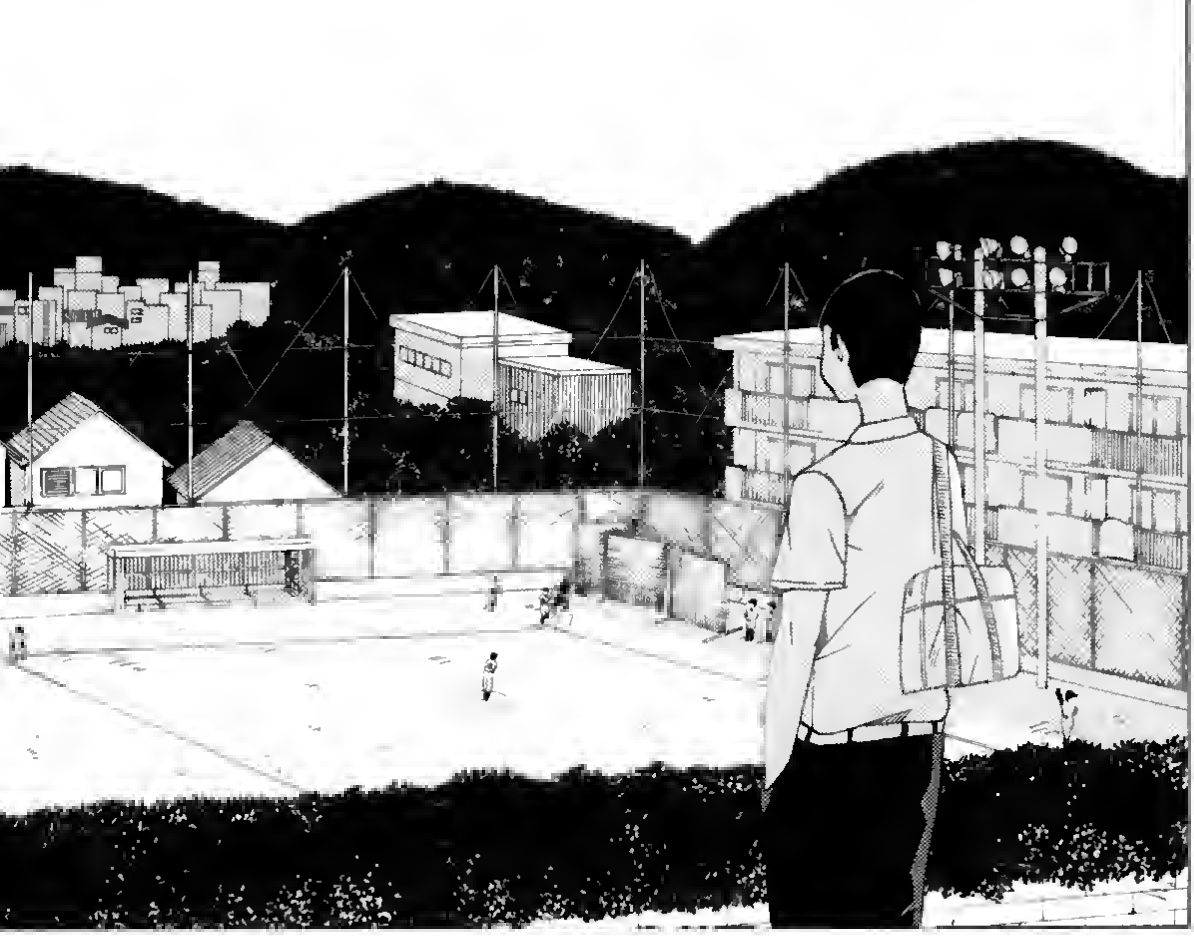
RAWS: VISCANS
TRANSLATOR: LAIKA
PROOFREADER: SAMISHII
EDITOR: IRUYILY
QUALITY CHECKER: LAIKA

#VISCANS@IRC.RIZON.NET

VI-SCANS.COM

CHAPTER 18: I BELIEVED IN YOU.





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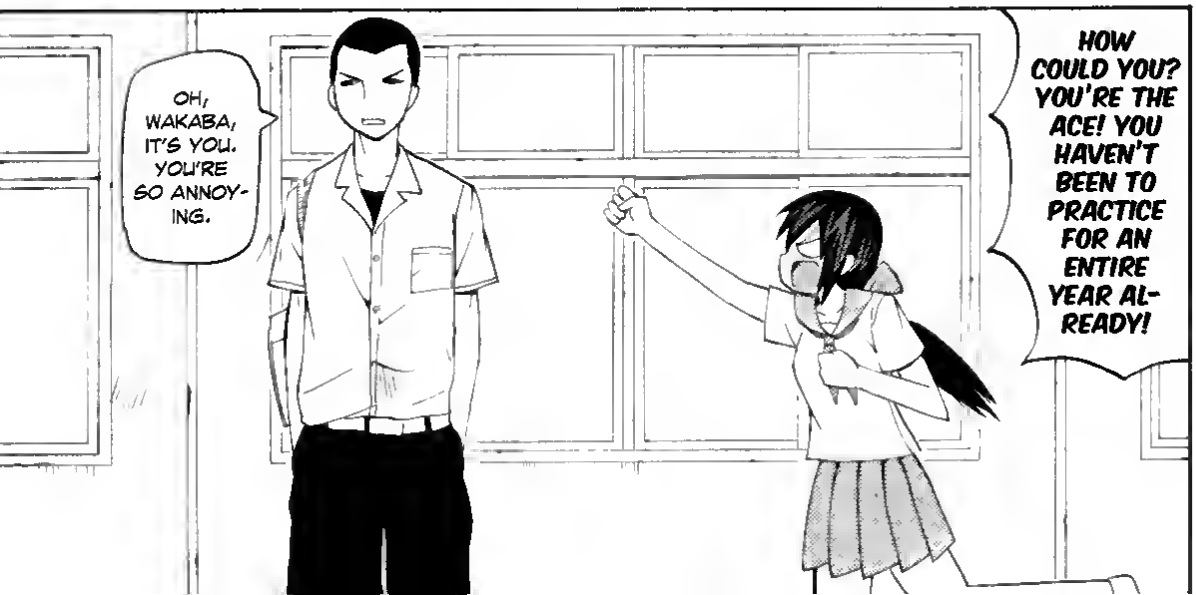
HEY! YOU'RE SKIPPING BASEBALL AGAIN, RYOU!?


OH, WAKABA, IT'S YOU. YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING.
HOW COULD YOU? YOU'RE THE ACE! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO PRACTICE FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR AL-READY!

YOU CAN'T PUT THAT BEHIND YOU, HUH...?
YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR DURING THE SUMMER OF SOPHOMORE YEAR?
BESIDES, WHAT'S THE POINT OF PRACTICIN' WHEN NOBODY WANTS ME AROUND ANYWAYS?
I AIN'T THE ACE NO MORE.
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST GOING TO GO GOOF OFF AGAIN!
I GOT MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO THAN PRACTICE.
SHUT UP, YA UGLY BITCH. I DON'T REMEMBER SHIT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR. AND STOP TRYIN' TO TALK TO ME DURING SCHOOL.
...
LAST YEAR HE INSTANTLY BECAME THE ACE OF THE TEAM DESPITE IT BEING HIS FIRST YEAR AT THE SCHOOL AND CARRIED EVERYONE TO THE FINALS DURING THE HOTLY CONTESTED SUMMER QUALIFIERS.
BUT HE DECIDED TO ATTEND THIS PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A REAL BASEBALL FIELD, AS A REGULAR STUDENT.
I'VE BEEN CLASSMATES WITH KASHIWAGI RYOU SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL. HE'S NEARLY 190 CM, AND HE RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM A HIGH SCHOOL THAT WAS KNOWN FOR BASEBALL, BUT HE DECIDED TO ATTEND THIS PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A REAL BASEBALL FIELD AS A REGULAR STUDENT.
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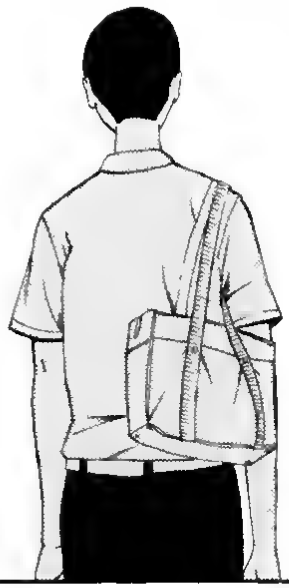
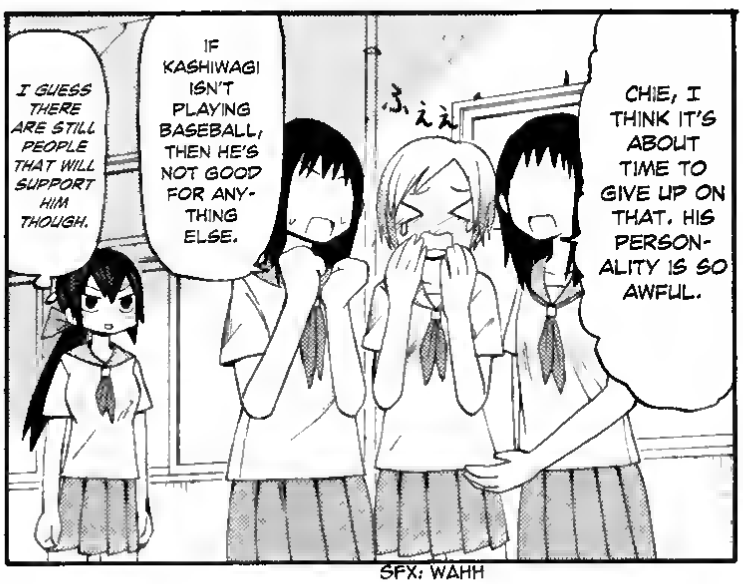
EVEN THOUGH RYOU WAS ALSO THE ONE THAT SCORED ALL THE RUNS, THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE THAT TREATED HIM LIKE HE HAD COMMITTED SOME SORT OF ATROCITY. AFTER THAT MATCH, RYOU STOPPED SHOWING UP TO PRACTICE.



BUT THEN AT THE FINALS, WHEN THE TEAM HAD A THREE POINT LEAD IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH AND HE WAS GOING ON A NO-HITTER WITH ONLY THREE OUTS LEFT, HE SUDDENLY CRACKED UNDER THE PRESSURE. IN AN UNBELIEVABLE TURN OF EVENTS, THEY SUFFERED A TURN-AROUND WALK-OFF LOSS, AND ANY CHANCE THEY HAD AT MAKING IT TO KOUSHIEN WAS DASHED.

Ryou-kun, do you wanna go and do something today!?
BUT WITH A YEAR HAVING PASSED SINCE HE QUIT BASEBALL, THERE WAS PRETTY MUCH NO ONE LEFT CLAMORING AROUND HIM.
PEOPLE ARE QUITE FICKLE.

SFX. KYAA KYAA


I GUESS THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE THAT WILL SUPPORT HIM THOUGH.
IF KASHIWAGI ISN'T PLAYING BASEBALL, THEN HE'S NOT GOOD FOR ANY-THING ELSE.
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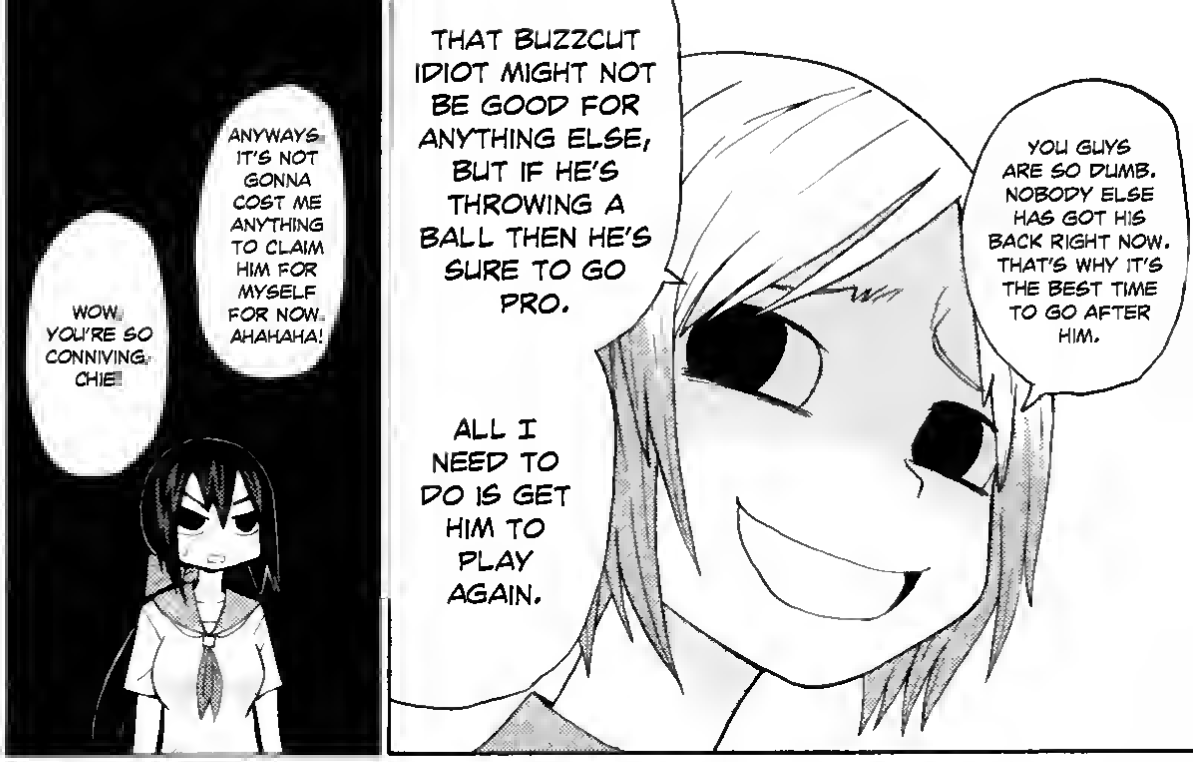
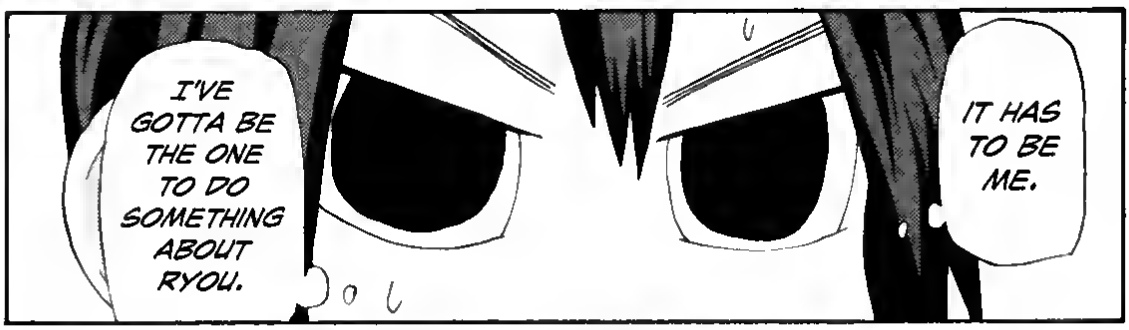
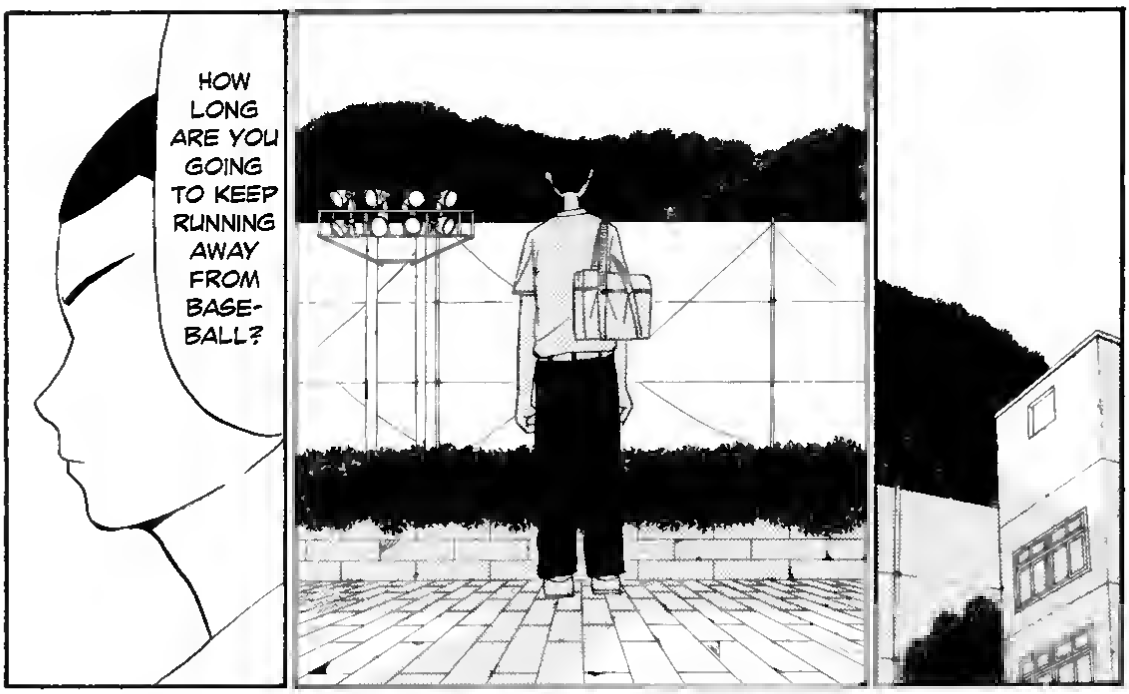
CHIE, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GIVE UP ON THAT. HIS PERSON-ALITY IS SO AWFUL.

SFX: WAHH


ANYWAYS, IT'S NOT GONNA COST ME ANYTHING TO CLAIM HIM FOR MYSELF FOR NOW. AHAHAHA!
WOW, YOU'RE SO CONNIVING, CHIE!
THAT BUZZCUT IDIOT MIGHT NOT BE GOOD FOR ANYTHING ELSE, BUT IF HE'S THROWING A BALL THEN HE'S SURE TO GO PRO.
ALL I NEED TO DO IS GET HIM TO PLAY AGAIN.
YOU GUYS ARE SO DUMB. NOBODY ELSE HAS GOT HIS BACK RIGHT NOW. THAT'S WHY IT'S THE BEST TIME TO GO AFTER HIM.


I'VE GOTTA BE THE ONE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT RYOU.
IT HAS TO BE ME.


HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP RUNNING AWAY FROM BASE-BALL?

MAYBE YOU LOST THAT MATCH BECAUSE YOU MESSED UP, BUT THE TEAM SURE AS HELL WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AT THE FINALS IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU EITHER.
IT'S GOING TO BE SUMMER AGAIN SOON, RYOU.
HAVE SOME CONFID-ENCE IN YOUR-SELF!
I CAN'T STAND LOOKING AT YOU WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS.
IT'S SO LAME HOW YOU'RE JUST MOPING!

I DON'T REMEMBER YOU EVER BEING THIS LAME WHEN WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
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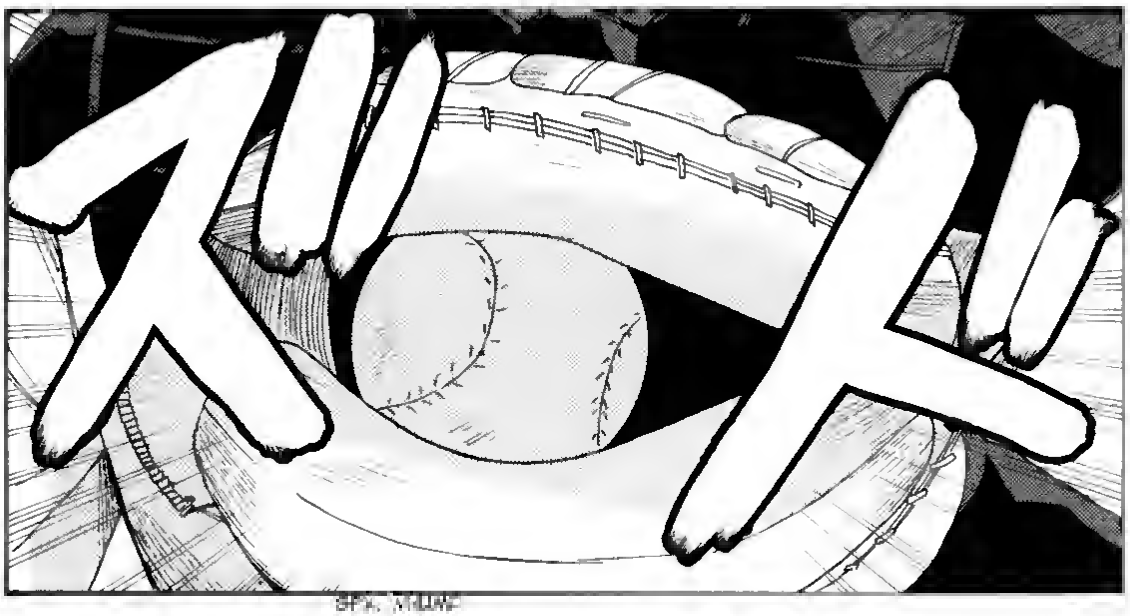
YOU'D TAKE YOUR BEATINGS, BUT IT'D NEVER BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO LOSE HEART. YOU USED TO BE ONE OF THOSE LOUD-MOUTH JOCKS COVERED IN DIRT FROM THE FIELD!
SFX: GRAB

I AIN'T GIVIN' UP ON IT.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING NOT TO BE INTERESTED, AND THAT YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT IT WITH ALL THESE REGRETS. I MEAN, YOU WATCH THEM PRACTICE EVERY DAY LIKE YOU'RE SOME HEARTBROKEN LITTLE GIRL.
THAT'S THE RYOU THAT I FELL IN...! FELL-FELL-FELT LIKE WAS REAL!
SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE TALENT FOR IT! WHO CARES? JUST GIVE UP AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT THING!
WHY DON'T YOU QUIT BASEBALL ALREADY!?

I DON'T NEED SOME BITCH RUNNIN' HER DAMN MOUTH ON THE SIDE.
KEEP IT SHUT AND JUST YOU WAIT TILL SUMMER ROLLS 'LONG!
WHO THE FUCK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TELLIN' ME THAT I DON'T HAVE TALENT AND THAT I SHOULD JUST QUIT!?
BASEBALL IS ALL I FUCKIN' HAVE!
AH! RYOU-KUN, LET'S GO HOME TO-GETHER!
WAIT AND SEE, YA UGLY BITCH.
RYOU...
...

RIGHT, RYOU...?
YOU SHOULD BE OKAY NOW...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IT'S JUST THE SEMI-FINALS FOR THE QUALIFIERS. AIN'T NOTHIN' TO GET EXCITED ABOUT.
NO SHIT, YA MORONS.
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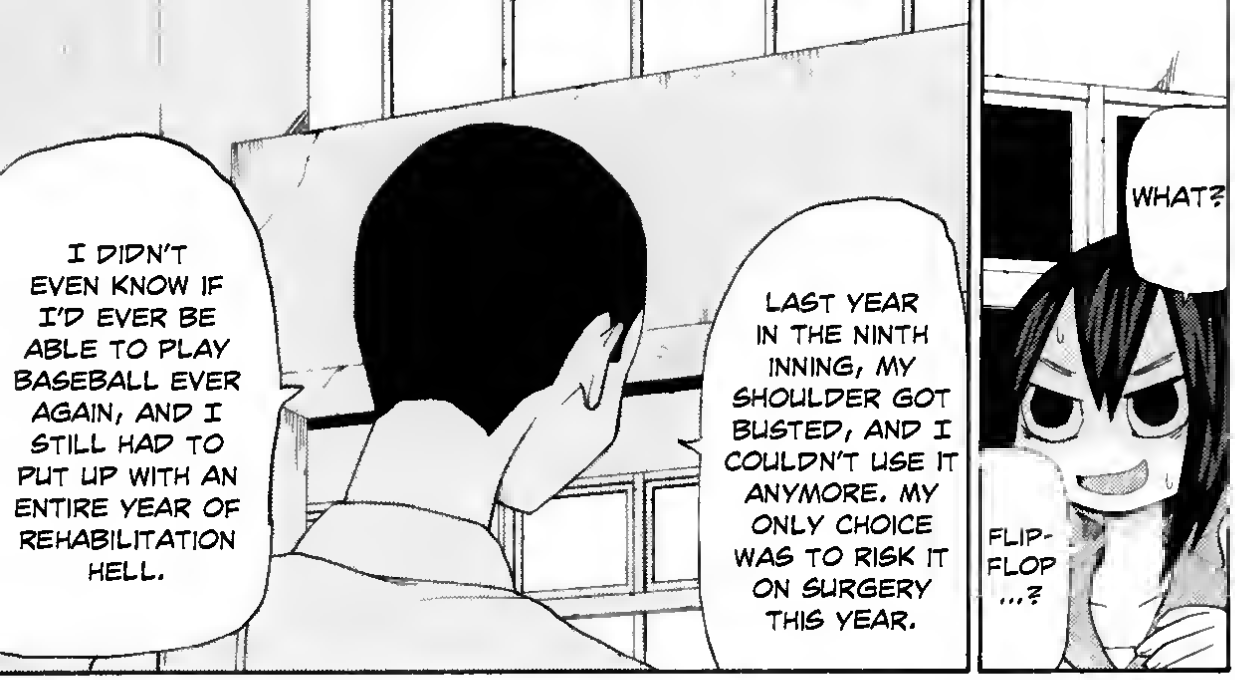
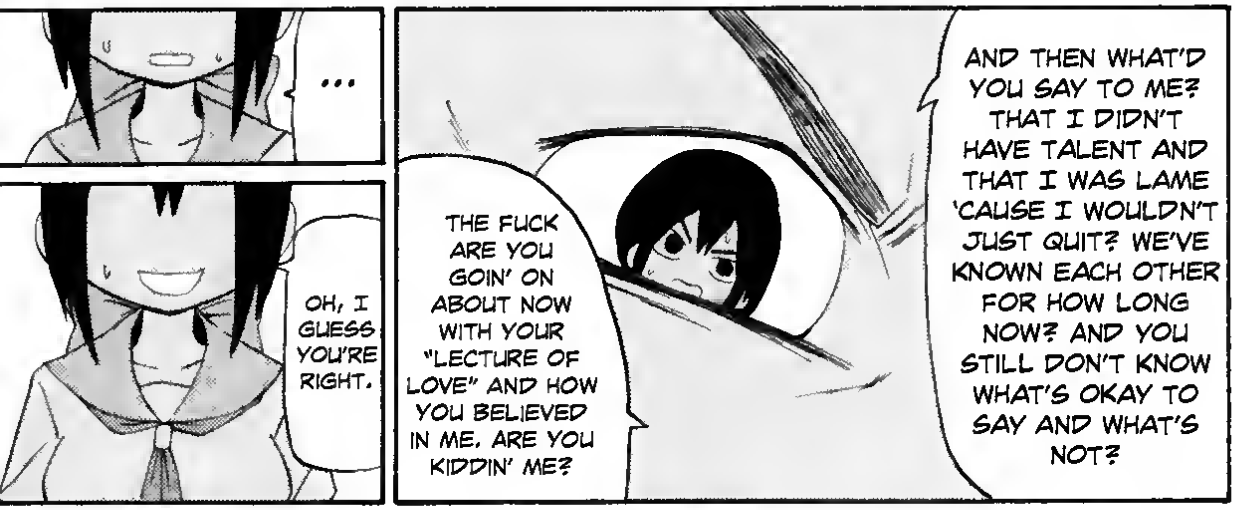
The ace from last year's qualifiers that had everyone in a tizzy and then suddenly disappeared has returned! Kashiwagi is back and in action this summer for the first time in a year!
No hit, no runs!

SFX: KYA- KYA-

SFX: KYA-

FUFUFU.
HERE, LET ME CARRY YOUR BAG FOR YOU. JUST FOR TODAY THOUGH!
C'MON, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT.
LOOKS LIKE MY LITTLE LECTURE OF LOVE WAS EFFECTIVE!
I BELIEVED IN YOU. I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO PLAY BASEBALL AGAIN.
DON'T TOUCH ME.
THE MOMENT I START SHOWIN' SOME GOOD RESULTS, THEN YOU BELIEVED IN ME, HUH?
HOW CAN YOU JUST SHAMELESSLY FLIP-FLOP LIKE THAT?


I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF I'D EVER BE ABLE TO PLAY BASEBALL EVER AGAIN, AND I STILL HAD TO PUT UP WITH AN ENTIRE YEAR OF REHABILITATION HELL.
LAST YEAR IN THE NINTH INNING, MY SHOULDER GOT BUSTED, AND I COULDN'T USE IT ANYMORE. MY ONLY CHOICE WAS TO RISK IT ON SURGERY THIS YEAR.
WHAT?
FLIP-FLOP ...?


...
OH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE FUCK ARE YOU GOIN' ON ABOUT NOW WITH YOUR "LECTURE OF LOVE" AND HOW YOU BELIEVED IN ME, ARE YOU KIDDIN' ME?
AND THEN WHAT'D YOU SAY TO ME? THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TALENT AND THAT I WAS LAME 'CAUSE I WOULDN'T JUST QUIT? WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR HOW LONG NOW? AND YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT'S OKAY TO SAY AND WHAT'S NOT?

YEAH, I'M THE LITERAL WORST. SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
ANYWAYS, GOOD LUCK ON YOUR MATCH TOMORROW!

Oh, there you are, Ryou!!

空が灰色だから

空が灰色だから